

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 11, 2004. Claims 21-31 are pending.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over DeLorme in view of Pinzon. This Section 103(a) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 21 requires that " the computerized reservation/IT system is arranged to

- automatically generate an electronic key upon receiving from the wireless

terminal a reservation and/or check-in request,

- automatically and wirelessly communicate the electronic key to the wireless

terminal that originated the reservation and/or check-in request, and

- automatically communicate electronically to the remotely operable door lock

information corresponding to the electronic key, and

the remotely operable door lock is arranged to:

- automatically and wirelessly obtain, without the user of the wireless terminal

having to press a button, the electronic key from the wireless terminal if the second

wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range, and

- automatically actuate the lock device if the key obtained from the wireless

terminal corresponds to the information received from the computerized reservation/IT system."

In other words, the invention of claim 21 in the context of controlling a lock or the like in a hotel for example, provides an automatic solution which need not require manual operation of a portable device as an initiative for obtaining electronic key(s) for locking/unlocking a lock. In other words, the invention of claim 21 allows for *hands free* locking and unlocking of a remotely operable door lock, which is highly convenient for a hotel guest or the like approaching a hotel room while carrying luggage.

In contrast, as the Office Action admits, DeLorme is entirely unrelated to door locks in hotels and the like. Recognizing this deficiency in DeLorme, the Office Action cites Pinzon. However, Pinzon discloses a door locking/unlocking system which requires the initiative of a user. In particular, in Pinzon any transfer of a code from the portable wireless device to the receiver comes as a result of the user operating a push-button or keypad of the portable wireless device. This of course is undesirable (i.e., hands free locking/unlocking is not possible).

In contrast, the invention of claim 21 allows the remotely operable door lock to obtain wirelessly the key from the wireless terminal when the second wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range *without a user having to press any keys/buttons of the wireless terminal*, so that the lock device can be actuated if the key obtained from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the computerized reservation/IT system. Both DeLorme and Pinzon fail to disclose or

suggest this aspect of claim 21. Thus, even if the two references were combined as alleged in the Office Action, the invention of claim 21 still would not be met.

Furthermore, Pinzon at C2, l. 32-35 and C5, l. 39-53, teaches directly away from the solution proposed by claim 21, by disclosing an arrangement wherein the electronics associated with a door lock is furnished with locking/unlocking codes at the location of the door lock directly by way of a *user interface*, by codes already stored therein, by training, or by downloading from a portable device brought to the location of the lock device. From this, it is clearly understood that to alter the locking/unlocking code to be different from what the suggested periodic change scheme would provide, *manual intervention* at the place of installation of the lock is required. Pinzon thus discloses a solution which is inefficient and cumbersome with respect to the altering of the code. In contrast, certain example embodiments of this invention provide automatic, immediate, and “on-the-fly” key code generation and transmission to both the remotely operable lock and the wireless terminal. To utilize the code thus entered on-site into the electronics of the door lock according to the disclosure of Pinzon, a hotel would then, after once having performed the on-site programming of the door lock electronics, upon completing the usual guest check-in procedure, provide the guest with a portable wireless phone or similar wireless terminal, instead of a physical key, and thereupon make a call from the switch board of the hotel to the wireless terminal at the time when the guest has placed the wireless phone, according to Pinzon, in a cradle properly arranged in the respective hotel room door, or at the time when the guest carrying the wireless phone equipped with

the short range wireless transmitter, as proposed by Pinzon, is proximal to the door of the hotel room assigned to the guest. As shown above, in no respect does the solution disclosed by Pinzon allow for an automatic key generation and transfer to the remotely operable lock device and to the portable wireless terminal in response to a wireless and/or check-in request originating from that particular portable wireless terminal. Pinzon is entirely unrelated to the invention of claim 21.

As admitted by the Examiner, DeLorme fails to disclose a system wherein the computerized as reservation/IT system is adapted to automatically generate an electronic key upon receiving from the wireless terminal a reservation or check-in request and automatically and wirelessly communicate the electronic key to wireless terminal that originated the reservation or check-in request. However, there is no basis whatsoever for the Office Action's statements in section 7. Pinzon fails to disclose or suggest a solution that includes automatically generating an electronic key in response to a reservation and/or check-in request received from the wireless terminal and for automatically and wirelessly communicating the generated electronic key to the terminal that originated the reservation and/or check-in request. Thus, neither DeLorme nor Pinzon in any way is concerned with the generation of an electronic key in response to a reservation and/or check-in request, but instead are concerned with quite different problems, namely those of providing a computerized travel reservation, information and planning system that generates "map ticket" output in various media for guidance and transactions on route, and the separate task of providing a remote door locking/unlocking system for providing

a hotel the ability to lock or unlock room doors from a central switchboard while providing guests with individual line-of-sight transmitters, respectively.

Regarding claim 26, in the most recent action, the Examiner also makes reference to US 5,979,754 to Martin et al., which discloses a door control apparatus which employs a card reader as part of the door control unit for reading an entry card. Card identification to information is transmitted wirelessly from a main paging transmitter connected with the control system and is received by the door control unit at selected doors to define the card or cards which are to be accepted at each door control unit to open the control door. Thus, the solution proposed by Martin et al. essentially provide a solution which is similar to the one provided by Pinzon. However, as the disclosure of Martin et al. is for a solution that makes use of an essentially permanently pre-programmed card with a fixed code carried on the card that cannot readily be changed on-the-fly as the user carrying the card is moving about, Martin et al. is not capable of addressing the same needs and problems that are addressed by the present invention. In particular, it is clear that the card with identification information carried thereon itself cannot operate as a terminal from which a reservation and/or check-in request can be transmitted wirelessly to a reservation or check-in system, and the card is not capable of receiving wirelessly locking code information that has been generated specifically for a particular reservation and/or check-in request. Accordingly, the disclosure of Martin et al. in the 754 patent is unrelated to the invention of claim 26.

Claim 27 requires "- automatically generating in the computerized reservation/IT system an electronic key upon receiving from the wireless terminal a reservation and/or check-in request, automatically and wirelessly communicating a copy of the electronic key from the computerized reservation/IT system to the wireless terminal that originated the reservation and/or check-in request, and automatically and electronically communicating from the computerized reservation/IT system to the remotely operable door lock information corresponding to the electronic key, and automatically and wirelessly obtaining the remotely operable door lock, without the user of the wireless terminal having to press a button, a copy of the electronic key from the wireless terminal if the second wireless device and the first wireless device are mutually in-range, and automatically actuating by the remotely operable door lock the lock device if the copy of the electronic key obtained from the wireless terminal corresponds to the information received from the computerized reservation/IT system."

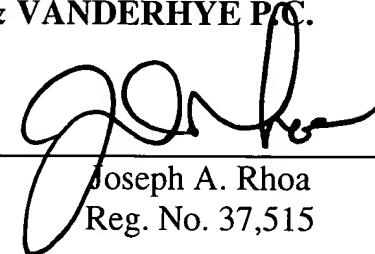
Again, the cited art fails to disclose or suggest these aspects of claim 27.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

BRÖNDRUP
Appl. No. 09/788,402
July 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100